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Chairman: Ms. Wensley ..... (Australia)
Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Mr. Mselle

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The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

Agenda item 121: Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001 (*continued*) (A/54/6/Rev.1, A/54/7 and A/54/16)

Part II. Political affairs

1. **Mr. Mselle** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the total estimate for Part II was $241.6 million. Under section 3, an important innovation for the biennium 2000-2001 was the inclusion of a provision of $86.2 million for special political missions. When introducing the report of the Advisory Committee (A/54/7) at the 17th meeting of the Fifth Committee, he had made mention of the context in which the Secretary-General had framed the relevant proposal.

2. Paragraphs II.8 and II.10 of the report referred to the question of the Secretary-General's commitment authority under the terms of paragraph 1 (a) of General Assembly resolution 52/223, on unforeseen and extraordinary expenses. The Advisory Committee commented that over 70 per cent of that authority had been utilized during just five months of 1999. As stated in chapter I, paragraph 126, of the report, the Advisory Committee believed that time had come to review the levels of unforeseen and extraordinary expenses specified in the General Assembly resolution, and it therefore requested the Secretary-General to submit an analysis to the General Assembly at the main part of its fifty-fourth session, together with proposals, if necessary, for adjustment of the various levels.

3. In paragraph II.11 of its report, the Advisory Committee accepted the proposed conversion of two temporary posts (one D-1 and one P-5) into established posts. In paragraph II.12 it recommended that the effects of the establishment of the Policy Planning Unit should be monitored.

4. In paragraph II.13, which referred to the *Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs* and the *Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council*, the Advisory Committee welcomed the additional measures being taken by the Secretariat to bring the *Repertoire* up to date and trusted that the remaining backlog would be dealt with expeditiously.

5. The Advisory Committee had encountered difficulties when considering the requirements of electoral-assistance programmes and activities, as was explained in paragraph II.14. It requested that the presentation of subprogramme 3, Electoral assistance, should be considerably improved in the proposed programme budget. In paragraph II.15, it stated that it had not received some of the information it had asked for and requested that that information should be made available to the General Assembly during the main part of its fifty-fourth session.

6. With respect to section 4, Disarmament, it indicated in paragraph II.21 of its report that it had no objection to the proposed reclassification to the D-1 level of a P-5 post in the Weapons of Mass Destruction Branch. At the same time, it requested the Secretary-General to review the level of the post of Chief of the Disarmament Branch in Geneva and to report the results of the review to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session. Paragraph II.24 reflected the Advisory Committee's comments and questions on the Regional Disarmament Centre in Khatmandu.

7. In relation to section 5, the Advisory Committee addressed management matters, including travel (para. II.34), efficient management of trust funds with particular reference to the delays experienced in establishing the trust fund database (II.37) and coordination between the various departments (II.39).

8. In its comments on section 6, the Advisory Committee was not opposed to the budget proposals, although it recalled an observation which it had made in the first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999 with respect to the work programme of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, which seemed as extensive for the biennium 2000-2001 as for the current biennium. It had been informed that the Office relied on a network of outside space agencies when planning and implementing its work programme.

Section 3. Political affairs

9. **Mr. Damico** (Brazil) said that, from the programmatic point of view, his delegation concurred with the Committee for Programme and Coordination that the Department of Political Affairs should place more emphasis on preventive diplomacy and peacemaking, since they were the most cost-effective way in which the United Nations could contribute to

the maintenance of international peace and security. Brazil welcomed the fact that provisions for special political missions were included in section 3 instead of section 5 relating to peace-keeping, and hoped that the change would strengthen the capacity of the Department of Political Affairs to carry out its work programme, particularly in the area of preventive diplomacy and, control and resolution of conflicts.

10. Brazil took note of a reduction in the resources to be allocated to section 3 in the biennium 2000-2001 compared with the previous biennium. That was due mainly to a lower estimate for special political missions, as decided in resolution 53/206. As the Advisory Committee had pointed out, the provision of $86.2 million for special political missions in the biennium 2000-2001 was for missions not yet mandated but expected to be undertaken during the biennium. Brazil would like to know whether the estimate reflected the experience acquired in the missions for the biennium 1998-1999.

11. His delegation attached great importance to the electoral assistance requested by Member States, for which sufficient resources should be provided. In that connection, it would recommend better coordination between the various organs in the United Nations system participating in such activities.

12. Lastly, Brazil agreed with the Committee for Programme and Coordination that the overview of budget section 3 should reflect more clearly the objective of a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement of the question of Palestine, as included in the medium-term plan.

13. **Mr. Gammal** (Egypt) supported the activities of the Department of Political Affairs, but noted that the overview of the corresponding budget section failed to mention one of the general objectives of the programme, which was to promote the solution of the question of Palestine through peaceful means, in accordance with the provisions of all the relevant United Nations resolutions, as indicated in paragraph 1.1 of the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001. He also reaffirmed the need to refer in the budget overview to the general lines of the medium-term plan and expressed support for the recommendation made by the Committee for Programme and Coordination in paragraph 114 (a) of its report (A/54/16).

14. **Mr. Repasch** (United States of America) expressed general support for the political affairs programme, which covered a priority activity of the Organization, and welcomed the inclusion of provision for special political missions, which made the budget proposal more meaningful, more transparent and more realistic. In that context, his delegation would like information on the costs of the political missions included in the budget for the current biennium, in order to analyse and evaluate the related proposal more thoroughly. In connection with the increase of about $20,000 in travel costs for the Chairmen of the Sanctions Committees to visit the countries concerned and their neighbours in order to evaluate directly the effects of the sanctions, his delegation would like to know how those Committees were funded.

15. With regard to subprogramme 6, Question of Palestine, his delegation considered that the assistance to the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People was an unjustified waste of money in existing circumstances, since those activities had no educational or political value and were an anachronism. The international community had expressed support for the provision of assistance to the Palestinian people in the establishment of institutions for an autonomous Government, economic infrastructure and social services, so that there was no need to have a United Nations organ responsible for promoting such assistance. His delegation therefore proposed that the relevant provision should be deleted from the budget.

16. With regard to executive direction and management, in view of the higher estimates for general temporary assistance and overtime in the item for other staff costs and the increase in the requirements for travel of senior staff with and on behalf of the Secretary-General, it would be important for the Secretariat to provide workload statistics and additional explanations regarding those estimates.

17. With regard to subprogramme 2, he noted that $62,200 were requested for consultancy services in the areas of early warning and prevention of conflicts and in the execution and elaboration of the training programme on early warning and preventive measures. Since early warning was one of the main functions of the Department of Political Affairs, his delegation would like to know why it was proposed to use consultancy services in that area.

18. With regard to subprogramme 3, Electoral assistance, he would welcome more information on the

proposal to convert two posts (one P-5 and one D-1) to established posts in view of the continuing nature of the functions, since that proposal did not seem fully justified.

19. In general, the United States reiterated its interest in the specific application of the concept of expected accomplishments in section 3 and other sections. In that connection, the Secretariat should indicate how it was planned to evaluate accomplishments, which were generally expressed in vague terms and difficult to measure. The expected accomplishments should be more clearly defined, so that Member States could see what had been done with the resources which they had provided.

20. **Mr. Moktefi** (Algeria) expressed his country's support for the activities carried out by the Department of Political Affairs in view of the importance of its work programme, and particularly for the substantial work done by the Electoral Assistance Division.

21. Algeria supported the modification proposed by the Committee for Programme and Coordination whereby the overview of section 3 would include the promotion of a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement of the question of Palestine, in accordance with the provisions of the medium-term plan.

22. In addition, with regard to the proposal to establish a Policy Planning Unit, to which reference was made in paragraph 3.29 of the proposed programme budget, he noted from paragraph II.12 of the Advisory Committee's report that the Unit had already been established; he requested an explanation. In that connection, he wondered whether there was not a risk of overlap between the activities of that Unit and those of the Strategic Planning Unit in the Executive Office of the Secretary-General. Algeria was concerned about the tendency to set up new structures overlapping existing ones, particularly because of the financial implications.

23. **Ms. Buergo Rodriguez** (Cuba) voiced her country's full support for the activities of the Department of Political Affairs, particularly in the area of peace-building.

24. In general, Cuba was concerned about possible overlapping and duplication between the Department of Political Affairs and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations — a question to which the General Assembly had referred on various occasions.

25. Cuba had studied in detail the information provided to the Assembly in connection with the resources requested for the support account in the period between July 1999 and June 2000. In its opinion, neither that information nor the information included in section 3 adequately met the concerns of the Assembly; Cuba would therefore be grateful to receive additional explanations from the Secretariat. Cuba agreed with other delegations about the modification to the overview of section 3 proposed by the Committee for Programme and Coordination in relation to the question of Palestine.

26. Her delegation had noted the proposal for the establishment of a Policy Planning Unit and would like to know the reasons underlying the proposal. In addition, it would welcome more information to supplement that provided in paragraph 3.29 on the functions to be performed by the Unit, as well as on the way in which its activities would be coordinated with the Strategic Planning Unit.

27. Paragraph 3.11 mentioned the need for extrabudgetary resources to supplement substantive activities. She asked what activities were meant, how resources were allocated between them and why the activities could not be included in the regular budget.

28. Paragraph 3.14 requested an appropriation of $19,800 for the travel of the Chairmen of the Sanctions Committees. That item was appearing in the budget for the first time; her delegation therefore requested details about how the travel had been financed previously.

29. Table 3.10, which summarized requirements by programme, combined subprogramme 1 (Prevention, control and resolution of conflicts) and subprogramme 2 (Assistance and support to the Secretary-General in the political aspects of his relations with Member States). She asked why that had been done and why each subprogramme had not been presented separately.

30. Table 3.13, which summarized requirements by object of expenditure, included a total estimate of $65.2 million for consultants and experts. She asked the Secretariat to explain the reason for that request and to clarify whether it did not have the necessary capacity to perform those activities.

31. Paragraph 3.31 (b) (v) mentioned notes and background papers focusing on early warning, options and recommendations for preventive action and peace-

building. She asked the Secretariat to clarify the thinking behind that request.

32. Paragraph 3.35 indicated that the Policy Planning Unit would be responsible for substantive preparations for the follow-up programme to the Third International Conference of New or Restored Democracies. She asked why that decision had been taken and whether it meant that in future the Conference would be financed under the regular budget. So far, because of its special nature, the Conference had been funded from extrabudgetary resources.

33. Lastly, she wished to place on record her delegation's support for the inclusion of a provision of $86.2 million for special political missions.

34. **Mr. Takahara** (Japan) also supported the inclusion in the budget of a provision for special political missions and hoped that the discussion of that proposal would take into account the expenditure patterns and the mandates of each mission.

35. Japan welcomed the inclusion in the budget of statements of expected accomplishments. The objective evaluation of the results of programme and budget performance was very important; for that reason, the statement of expected accomplishments should be specific and, if possible, include numerical indicators to permit a quantitative evaluation. In Japan's view, the statement of expected accomplishments in the section under consideration and in other sections of the budget should be refined. In that connection, it endorsed the opinion expressed by the Advisory Committee in paragraph 10 of its report (A/54/7) that such information had not been provided in all subprogrammes and that the statements needed to be refined as they were very broad and general.

36. In his delegation's view, sufficient information was not given to justify the increase in certain items compared with the current biennium. That was the case for the increases requested for staff costs (para. 3.21) and travel costs (para. 3.22).

37. **Mr. Chandra** (India) said that, in paragraph II.21 of its report (A/54/7), the Advisory Committee said that it had no objection to the reclassification to the D-1 level of a P-5 post in the Weapons of Mass Destruction Branch. The Indian delegation supported that decision. In the same paragraph, the Secretary-General was asked to review the level of the post of the Chief of the Disarmament Branch in Geneva and to report on the results of the review. His delegation hoped that the report would be prepared promptly and supported the statement by the representative of Algeria on the matter.

38. **Mr. Sial** (Pakistan) said that his delegation attached great importance to Part II of the budget relating to political affairs. It welcomed the inclusion, first in the budget outline and then in the programme budget, of provisions for special political missions and supported the conclusion and recommendation of the Committee for Programme and Coordination which appeared in paragraph 114 of its report (A/54/16). In that connection, he recalled General Assembly resolution 53/206 concerning the programme budget outline for the biennium 2000-2001, which was based on the recommendation in paragraph 7 of the report of the Advisory Committee (A/52/7/Add.2). In that paragraph, the Advisory Committee recommended that, if the General Assembly endorsed the proposal to include a provision for special missions, the Secretary-General should be requested to prepare a technical report which would examine, *inter alia*, the implication of budgeting and financing peace and security activities whose legislative mandate might be extended or approved in the course of the biennium in question. His delegation would like to know whether the Secretary-General had prepared that report and, if so, whether it had been submitted to the Assembly or to the Advisory Committee.

39. The delegation of Pakistan also wished to comment on the title of the section under consideration. Firstly, he was glad that the Secretariat had removed the reference to special missions from section 5 of the budget and that in the current proposed programme budget the section was entitled "Peacekeeping operations". However, since special missions had been transferred to section 3, perhaps consideration should be given to the possibility of calling the section "Political affairs and special missions".

40. **Ms. Aragon** (Philippines) wished to place on record that her country supported the conclusions and recommendations in paragraph 114 of the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination (A/54/16).

41. Her delegation had noted with satisfaction that, in paragraph 3.8 of the proposed programme budget, the Secretary-General proposed the incorporation of a

gender perspective in data-collection, research and analysis activities. It therefore urged the Secretariat to make greater efforts to achieve that goal.

42. **Mr. Monthe** (Chairman of the Committee for Programme and Coordination) said that he wished to clarify an issue which arose frequently in the Committee: the narrative of the programmes which made up the budget. In paragraph 4 of section II of resolution 37/234, the General Assembly had confirmed that, when appropriating resources for the implementation of the programme budget, it also decided that the programme elements and output citations in the proposed programme budget should constitute the commitments against which programme performance was to be reported and assessed. Thus the narratives were fundamental elements of the budget. With that in mind, the Committee for Programme and Coordination had decided to make some adjustments in the narratives in the current proposed programme budget. Those adjustments had the following goals: to bring the narrative into line with the relevant mandate; to improve the technical structure of the narrative (for example, substantive activities could not be presented in the same way as servicing activities); to establish correctly the specific identity of activities so as to avoid duplication or overlapping; and, lastly, to improve the wording in the interests of greater precision and clarity.

43. Many of the questions asked by delegations would not have arisen if the programme elements had been properly described. In future, it would be necessary to remedy that shortcoming. At the thirty-fourth session, the Secretary-General had prepared a note (A/C.5/34/2) on the definition of outputs in the proposed programme budget. That document should be followed in the preparation of narratives.

44. **Mr. Sach** (Director, Programme Planning and Budget Division) said that several delegations, including those of Brazil, the United States and Pakistan, had expressed interest in the amount of the provision for special political missions ($86.2 million). That sum had been approved as part of the budget outline in a resolution which had been the subject of lengthy and difficult informal consultations. The amount had been mainly determined on the basis of experience. In the current biennium, the appropriation for special missions was $100 million. By the end of June, $68 million had been used. The amount of $86 million was probably the maximum which could be used for that item. However, everything depended on the missions to be decided by the Security Council. In any case, the possibility of increasing the amount, if necessary, existed under the provisions of General Assembly resolution 41/213.

45. It had also been asked whether a technical report had been prepared on that issue. The report had indeed been prepared and issued under the symbol A/C.5/51/57. Details of the use to be made of the $86.2 million were to be found in part II of the proposed programme budget.

46. Another matter with which delegations seemed to be concerned was the vagueness of the results to be expected and the possibility of quantifying them. The current budget format allowed the inclusion of performance indicators. His Division intended to deal with the problem in the course of the biennium and, if the General Assembly so desired, such indicators would be included.

47. It had also been asked why subprogramme 1 and subprogramme 2 had been presented together. Those two subprogrammes were serviced by the same units and required staff with the same type of skills. It had therefore been felt necessary to present them together.

48. With regard to the travel of staff of the Department of Political Affairs to assist or represent the Secretary-General, the Division could provide full information for consideration at informal consultations. Some examples which could be cited immediately were travel to represent the Secretary-General at the International Conference on Preventive Strategy, at the Conference in support of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and at the Conference of the Inter-Parliamentary Union. It had also been asked how travel of the Chairmen of the Sanctions Committees had been funded in previous bienniums. Special arrangements had been made in each case and in general money from other items had been used. Since the activity was an ongoing one, it had been decided on the present occasion to include an item in the regular budget.

49. With regard to consultancy, and in particular the amount of $62,200 for early warning specialists, that amount was part of a programme of work costing a total of $17,000 million, including staff costs, and thus represented less than 0.5 per cent of the resources allocated to the programme. Consultants were very rarely used and had been in the current case because

there had been no member of the permanent staff specializing in the subject.

50. On the subject of the proposed Policy Planning Unit to be established in the Department of Political Affairs through redeployment of existing posts, the Committee for Programme and Coordination had at the time distributed a document, which would be recirculated during the informal consultations. The basic function of the new Unit would be to provide some policy coordination within the Department of Political Affairs, in order to provide some cohesion between the various geographical units on which the Department's structure was currently based. A distinction should be made between the Strategic Planning Unit in the Executive Office of the Secretary-General, which dealt with all the Organization's strategic issues, including the annual report of the Secretary-General, and the new Policy Planning Unit, whose mandate would focus strictly on the political issues dealt with by the United Nations.

51. In response to the question on the revised programme narratives, he explained that, if the General Assembly endorsed the recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination, they should be reflected in the Assembly resolution on the adoption of the budget.

52. The two specific posts in the Electoral Division about which a question had been asked were temporary posts occupied for several years, with functions considered to be ongoing in nature. Since their conversion to established posts would not be any more costly, and since it was anticipated that they would continue to be needed in the future, the Programme Planning and Budget Division was recommending their conversion.

53. Replying to the question on the Advisory Committee's recommendation concerning disarmament, he said that there was a D-1 post in the Department for Disarmament Affairs which the Advisory Committee had requested the Secretariat to consider for reclassification. The Programme Planning and Budget Division had carefully considered the classification of the most important posts in the Secretariat when it had prepared the budget and it had followed strict criteria in making its classification recommendations, especially in view of the reference in several resolutions to the top-heavy structure of the Secretariat. For that reason, the Division had not recommended that any posts should be reclassified to D-2 or that any new posts should be added at or above that level. However, since a recommendation had been made to review the classification, the Division would study the case and report in due course.

54. **Mr. Sial** (Pakistan) expressed surprise at the information given by the Director of the Programme Planning and Budget Division to the effect that the technical report requested in paragraph 7 of report A/52/7/Add.2 was document A/C.5/51/57, since the Advisory Committee had considered that document and made its request subsequently. He asked for further clarification.

55. **Ms. Buergo Rodriguez** (Cuba) said that some of the replies of the Director of the Programme Planning and Budget Division were not very clear. Firstly, in connection with the travel by Chairmen of the Sanctions Committees and the resources requested in paragraph 3.14, her delegation noted that previously those resources had not all been provided under the budget and that the Secretariat had decided to include them on that occasion; however, it wished to be given details about where the resources had previously been found and whether the Organization funded the travel itself.

56. With regard to paragraph 3.35, where it was stated that the Policy Planning Unit would be responsible for preparations for the follow-up programme to the Third International Conference of New or Restored Democracies, she said it was still not clear what work the Unit would be doing and asked whether the question would be referred to at a later stage.

57. With respect to the activities mentioned in paragraph 3.11, her delegation would like to know which were to be undertaken during the forthcoming biennium and what would be the breakdown of the resources allocated. It would also like to know why those activities had been funded with extrabudgetary resources.

58. She also asked for clarification of the mandate to be entrusted to the Electoral Assistance Division with regard to the activities described in paragraph 3.44, since it had not seemed to her delegation that the mandate was correctly based on the latest medium-term plan or on the decisions taken by the General Assembly.

59. Paragraph 3.46 (b) (ii) mentioned a roster of international experts for electoral assistance activities. She asked what were the selection criteria and whether a copy of the current roster could be provided.

60. With reference to paragraph 3.50, concerning subprogramme 3, the Cuban delegation noted that 50 electoral assistance missions were planned and asked for an explanation of the criteria used to determine which activities would be funded under the regular budget and which would be financed from extrabudgetary resources, since the paragraph mentioned both options. In addition, the Secretariat should report on the expenditure pattern and on the number of missions during the biennium 1998-1999, so as to provide a basis for comparison with the corresponding request for the biennium 2000-2001. In that connection, the Advisory Committee had made an important recommendation in paragraph II.14 of its report to the effect that criteria should be set for determining which electoral assistance activity should fall under the regular budget and which should be funded from extrabudgetary sources.

61. With reference to subprogramme 5, the Cuban delegation would like to know how the coordination and overall treatment of the decolonization question had functioned in practice after the changes adopted as part of the reform.

62. With regard to paragraph 3.37 (c) (i), the Committee should be told what criteria the Division followed in selecting the non-governmental organizations mentioned in that paragraph within the framework of international cooperation and inter-agency coordination and liaison.

63. **Mr. Sach** (Director, Programme Planning and Budget Division) said that he would provide detailed written replies at the informal consultations to most of the questions asked. Some referred to issues on which the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Advisory Committee had also asked questions; information material would subsequently be provided on them, and in particular on the electoral assistance missions conducted in 1998 and 1999, the countries where they had been conducted and the manner in which each one had been financed. It was impossible to foresee where missions would be sent during the biennium 2000-2001, since that depended on the requests for assistance submitted by Governments. The financing of the missions was based on quite pragmatic considerations and almost all the funding came from the regular budget, although in case of additional need extrabudgetary resources were used.

64. In reply to the question on paragraph 3.11, he said that the paragraph referred to assistance provided for the peace process in Guatemala and that table 3.1 showed that the extrabudgetary funds needed for the peace process would amount to $8.8 million.

65. In response to the question about section 5, he pointed out that more than one section of the budget contained resources for decolonization and that, since the structure had been agreed with some difficulty by the General Assembly, his Division had not attempted to modify it. Moreover, the cooperation between the two Departments concerned — Political Affairs and General Assembly Affairs — was proving satisfactory and programmes were being implemented without problem although the resources had been divided between two different departments.

Section 4. Disarmament

66. **Mr. Monthe** (Chairman of the Committee for Programme and Coordination) said that the narrative for section 4 was a complex text which had proved very difficult to interpret and that the Committee, after considering it carefully, as could be seen from paragraphs 117 to 130 of its report, had not reached a clear conclusion — in other words, it had not approved or rejected it. Noting that delegations had not on that occasion had sufficient time and specific information on the issue, the Committee for Programme and Coordination had proposed in paragraph 131 of its report several changes to the programme narratives of section 4 and had recommended, in paragraph 132, that the General Assembly should carefully review the text at the current session, when it would benefit from having more time and from the presence of a larger number of experts, in order to clearly determine whether the narrative reflected the provisions of the medium-term plan and of the resolutions of the organs concerned.

67. **Mr. Damico** (Brazil) shared the view of the Committee for Programme and Coordination that the programme of work described in the programme budget did not fully comply with the medium-term plan, and therefore supported the changes proposed by that Committee as well as its conclusions and recommendations on the section.

68. He also agreed with the Committee for Programme and Coordination about the imbalance in the programme of work of the Department for Disarmament Affairs and its over-emphasis on activities relating to biological and bacteriological weapons, to the detriment of those relating to nuclear weapons. Brazil, as a sponsor of the new agenda for nuclear disarmament, attached great importance to the question, which it believed deserved special attention in the light of the unfortunate events that had occurred recently.

69. With regard to the comment made by the Committee for Programme and Coordination to the effect that the branches established by the Department for Disarmament Affairs were not in conformity with General Assembly resolution 52/220, his delegation would like to hear the comments of the Secretariat.

70. His delegation also agreed with the view of the Committee for Programme and Coordination that it was necessary to clarify how the Department for Disarmament Affairs would distinguish between legitimate use and illegitimate use of small arms.

71. With regard to the level of resources, after examining the recommendations of the Advisory Committee, Brazil considered that the 4 per cent increase in the provision for section 4 in the coming biennium was in principle adequate.

72. **Mr. Herrera** (Mexico), responding to the comments by the Chairman of the Committee for Programme and Coordination, explained that in the CPC debate on the section under consideration some delegations, including his own, had considered that the relevant narratives reflected the mandates set in the medium-term plan and by the General Assembly, whereas others had disagreed, and that no agreement had been reached in the matter.

73. For the delegation of Mexico, disarmament had always been and still was a crucial issue, which had been recognized as such in the medium-term plan. In his region, very useful machinery had been set up to deal with the issue and the United Nations should maintain its firm stance in that area for the benefit of all mankind. Mexico supported the narrative in the programme budget, which faithfully reflected the General Assembly mandates and were compatible with the medium-term plan. It also agreed with the proposed increase in posts. It attached special importance to all aspects of the negotiations leading to the holding in 2001 of the Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons; the Fifth Committee would have to decide on the resources to be included in the regular budget for that purpose.

74. **Mr. Gammal** (Egypt) said that the narrative of section 4 should fully reflect the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001 and the priorities set in the Final Document of the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, which had been held in 1987.

75. **Mr. Hamidullah** (Bangladesh) shared the views of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on the narratives of the proposed programme budget and supported the United Nations Disarmament Fellowship, Training and Advisory Services Programme, which since its creation had enabled young diplomats from developing countries to familiarize themselves with various critical issues in the disarmament arena.

76. Bangladesh attached importance to the revitalization of the regional centres for peace and disarmament, and fully supported the programmes and activities of the Regional Centre for Asia and the Pacific, which currently operated from New York and had been made operational as a result of a grant from Japan. However, if the Centre was to pursue regional solutions to regional problems, it must be located in the region. The Government of Nepal, under the host country agreement, was prepared to provide the necessary premises and logistic support to the Centre; in those conditions, the relocation of the Centre would allow it to function more effectively.

77. Bangladesh believed that the expenses of the Centre should be met from the regular budget and asked whether the Secretariat was doing anything to mobilize funds so that the Centre could become operational.

78. **Mr. Sial** (Pakistan) recalled that, in its resolution 52/220, the General Assembly had decided to revise the Secretary-General's proposal on the section devoted to disarmament contained in document A/52/303. He was surprised to note that the current proposal not only referred to the earlier one but reflected the same concepts which had not been accepted by the General Assembly. For example, paragraph 4.2 of the proposed programme budget reproduced with slight modifications the proposal in that document. His delegation would welcome an explanation. The sections, overview, work programme

and expected accomplishments did not fully reflect the mandate in programme 26 of the medium-term plan, approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 53/207. In addition, the concepts and proposed actions were repeated in the three sections, which was not very helpful because revision of one sentence, phrase or paragraph would have to be reflected in several places.

79. It was of the utmost importance that the Secretariat should comply with the approved mandates in order to facilitate the work of the intergovernmental and expert bodies. The long list of proposals submitted by several delegations at the thirty-ninth session of the Committee for Programme and Coordination to amend the fascicle was ample proof that the provisions of programme 26 in the medium-term plan had not been reflected.

80. Since the contents of paragraphs 4.3, 4.13 and 4.16 went far beyond the mandate in programme 26 of the medium-term plan, Pakistan asked the Secretariat to provide written clarification of the mandates for the Department relating to the development, acceptance, promotion, strengthening and consolidation of international norms for disarmament.

81. The reference to the exchange of information on disarmament and security-related matters in paragraph 4.3 was also not in conformity with the provisions of the medium-term plan. The Department was mandated to provide information on United Nations activities in disarmament and not to exchange information with various entities. Pakistan would like to be informed in writing about the mandate for such exchange of information. The last sentence of paragraph 4.3 was a distorted version of the provisions of the medium-term plan and should be revised to reflect accurately the mandate on disarmament.

82. Paragraph 4.5 had been drafted in a very selective manner, ignoring the provisions of the medium-term plan; it referred to new mandates but completely ignored the latest mandate in resolution 53/207. Pakistan proposed the deletion of that paragraph.

83. Paragraph 4.11 also needed to be reformulated to reflect the full title of the Ad Hoc Committee on Fissile Materials in the context of follow-up to the 1998 decision of the Conference on Disarmament establishing it. The paragraph should also include a reference to the establishment of an Ad Hoc Committee on Negative Security Assurances. The assertion in the same paragraph that the Conference on Disarmament was expected to discuss a ban on the transfer of anti-personnel land mines to complement the Ottawa Convention was incorrect; the efforts of the Conference on Disarmament relating to anti-personnel land mines were not intended to complement the Ottawa Convention. Those references would therefore have to be revised.

84. With regard to paragraph 4.13, Pakistan requested the Secretariat to indicate in writing the mandate for the various actions proposed in the paragraph. The thrust of the paragraph was the creation of a new role for the Department in establishing legal and political norms — an important function which was the prerogative of the relevant intergovernmental bodies and not of the Secretariat. The accession to disarmament treaties was a sovereign right and prerogative of Member States and the Secretariat had no role in that regard. The Secretariat should clarify the use of the phrase "creating new legal and political norms in the field of weapons of mass destruction", used in paragraph 4.13. Did the Secretariat propose to amend the Convention on Chemical Weapons and the Convention on Biological Weapons?

85. With reference to paragraph 4.16, Pakistan requested information on the mandate for the role of the Department for Disarmament Affairs concerning the illegitimate use of small arms and asked what criteria would be used to determine legitimacy.

86. In connection with paragraph 4.17 (b) (vi), it would be useful to know how the negotiations had been conducted in the past, when the Secretariat had not been playing the role currently proposed for it. That output did not reflect the medium-term plan and should therefore be deleted. With regard to paragraph 4.17 (c) (ii), the Secretariat should provide written information on the mandate for the proposed activity; in the absence of a mandate, the paragraph should be deleted. Paragraph 4.17 (d) (ii) distorted the mandate in the medium-term plan. Pakistan wondered what would happen in the regions without regional centres if the centres were to be entrusted with the role of promoting wider adherence to the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms, and whether the Secretariat proposed to open new regional centres for that special task. Moreover, the proposal went beyond the mandate in paragraph 26.6 of the medium-term plan and should therefore be revised. Paragraph 4.17 (b) (v) should also be revised to bring it into line with the medium-term plan. His delegation supported the reclassification of

the P-5 post proposed by the Secretary-General in paragraph 4.19.

87. In paragraph 28 of section III of resolution 52/220, the General Assembly had decided that the organizational chart of the Department for Disarmament Affairs should be as contained in the Secretary-General's report (A/52/303). However, contrary to the decisions of the General Assembly, the branches established in the Department for Disarmament Affairs dealt with subjects which did not fall within the mandate of the Department, as noted in paragraph 4.14. The Fifth Committee should be informed of the reasons for the non-compliance with the decision of the General Assembly.

88. His delegation was of the view that the entire fascicle on disarmament placed too much emphasis on weapons of mass destruction, including chemical weapons, biological weapons and nuclear weapons. The Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons dealt with all aspects of the Convention on Chemical Weapons; the Convention on Biological Weapons dealt with biological weapons and negotiations for its strengthening were under way in Geneva; in addition, there was no progress in the area of nuclear disarmament. Against that background, it was not clear what role the Department for Disarmament Affairs could play in the area of weapons of mass destruction.

89. **Mr. Moktefi** (Algeria) generally endorsed the statements made by previous speakers and fully supported the activities of the Department for Disarmament Affairs. The narratives for the section of the proposed programme budget devoted to disarmament did not correctly reflect those which had appeared in the earlier outline approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 52/220 and did not fully coincide with the mandate set out in the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001. The regional centres for peace and disarmament in Lomé, Lima and Khatmandu were very important and greater efforts should be made to ensure their proper functioning.

90. In paragraph II.21 of its report (A/54/7), the Advisory Committee requested the Secretary-General to review the level of the post of the Chief of the Disarmament Branch in Geneva (who was also the Deputy to the Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament), currently at the D-1 level. Algeria considered that those functions could be performed only at the D-2 level and asked why the post had not been reclassified. The Secretariat should submit to the Fifth Committee as soon as possible the results of the study requested by the Advisory Committee, so that the issue could be dealt with in the informals, and should also submit at the earliest opportunity a written description of the functions of the post.

91. **Ms. Sun Liping** (China) said that the section did not take sufficiently into account the new situation in the area of disarmament: for example, the strengthening of important alliances and the intention of some countries to develop new anti-missile systems in order to upset the existing world balance. All those new developments might result in the weaponization of outer space and the disintegration of the basis for nuclear disarmament, which would be most harmful to the disarmament process. Accordingly, all those factors should be taken into account in the proposed budget so that it would be possible, through the efforts of all States Members of the United Nations, to reverse the situation and continue to make progress in disarmament. In addition, some of the narratives were vague and did not reflect the mandate in the medium-term plan. All that should be corrected.

92. China supported the proposed increase in the allocations for disarmament, which took into consideration the needs created by the separation of the Department for Disarmament Affairs from the Department of Political Affairs. However, the human resources provided for the Department were inadequate to deal with the workload; it was to be hoped that that would be remedied as soon as possible.

93. The narratives describing the work of the Conference on Disarmament were inaccurate. In 1998, the Conference had decided to establish an ad hoc committee to negotiate with a view to reaching agreement on effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons and an ad hoc committee to negotiate a non-discriminatory, multilateral and internationally and effectively verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices, and had recommended that they should be re-established in 1999; yet the relevant negotiations had not yet been initiated.

94. The Ottawa Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-

personnel Mines and on Their Destruction had not been negotiated under United Nations auspices and the results of the negotiations on the prohibition of the transfer of mines would complement not that Convention but the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May be Deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects.

95. Since the meeting of the Group of Governmental Experts on the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms to study the possibility of expanding the Register would be held in 2000, appropriations for such expansion should not be included in the draft programme budget under consideration, before the Group had made its recommendations.

96 **Mr. Repasch** (United States of America) said that his delegation generally supported the activities under section 4, Disarmament. However, with regard to the work programme, it did not understand how the development of a database on weapons of mass destruction would help the Secretary-General and Member States in identifying areas for which solutions and approaches were to be formulated. It would like to know what type of information the Department for Disarmament Affairs was to include in that database and how it would differ in content, scope and usefulness from the information already available. His delegation also wondered whether it would be useful to establish a database with information on conventional weapons and policy-relevant research and whether it would be appropriate for the Department for Disarmament Affairs to deal with the synthesis of information.

97. His delegation believed that the description of expected accomplishments was also too vague in section 4 and wondered how the Department for Disarmament Affairs would determine the success of activities to facilitate negotiations and increase awareness among Member States. It also wondered how the Department for Disarmament Affairs proposed to increase the involvement of non-governmental organizations and what would be the thrust of the re-invigorated publications and outreach programme mentioned among the expected accomplishments, since it understood that the Department had planned to rationalize the programme. In addition, his delegation would like to know what type of outreach activities the Department for Disarmament Affairs was to carry out and who would be the target groups.

98. The outputs described in paragraphs 4.17 (a) (i) and (ii) were not very useful and his delegation proposed the deletion of at least two reports requested by the General Assembly: one on the relationship between disarmament and development and one on the observance of environmental norms with respect to disarmament and arms control agreements. It would be interesting to know whether the content of those reports had changed in recent years and whether they had made a significant contribution.

99. With regard to paragraph 4.17 (a) (vi) a., his delegation would like to know the basis for the estimate of 186 meetings of subsidiary bodies per session.

100. In addition, his delegation wondered what activities were carried out by the Interdepartmental and Inter-Agency Steering Committee on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development, mentioned in paragraph 4.17 (a) (xvii). It did not believe that it was necessary to hold three meetings a year to coordinate those activities. It asked what agencies took part in that Committee's work and whether they paid some of the costs of the meetings.

101. In connection with paragraph 4.17 (b) (i), his delegation would like to know why the United Nations was carrying out analysis and assessment on developments in the ongoing negotiations within the Conference on Disarmament, for whom the reports were prepared, whether they were prepared in Geneva or in New York and what they contributed to the Conference on Disarmament or to the mission of the United Nations. If that was an outreach activity, it was perhaps misguided. With regard to paragraph 4.17 (b) (v), his delegation also wondered why the United Nations was making political assessments concerning weapons of mass destruction, for whom and for what purpose.

102. The United States delegation questioned the usefulness of the database mentioned in paragraph 4.18 and wondered why the P-2 staff member mentioned in that paragraph could not assume responsibility for it. With reference to the subvention to UNIDIR mentioned in paragraph 4.28, he recalled that the United States had for many years opposed subventions to non-United Nations bodies. The United States did not support the proposal and recommended deletion of the provision.

103. Noting that the resources for the Conference on Disarmament had increased by 28 per cent, in addition to the 23 per cent increase in the previous biennium, he proposed that, in the absence of any justification, the level of appropriations should be reduced to that of the previous biennium.

104. **Ms. Buergo Rodriguez** (Cuba) fully supported the activities being undertaken, but noted a certain lack of balance in the mandates described, particularly in the area of nuclear disarmament. In the report on the in-depth evaluation of the disarmament programme submitted to the Committee for Programme and Coordination by the Office of Internal Oversight Services, the Office had recommended restoration of the structure of the Department for Disarmament Affairs for the biennium 1990-1991. It would be helpful if the Secretariat could submit a paper describing the structure which the Department would have if the OIOS recommendation were put into effect.

105. Also as far as posts were concerned, Cuba noted that in paragraph II.21 of its report the Advisory Committee agreed to the reclassification of a P-5 post in the Weapons of Mass Destruction Branch to the D-1 level. She wondered why the Secretary-General had not reviewed the level of the post of the Chief of the Disarmament Branch in Geneva and had not reported to the Assembly, as he had been requested to do by the Advisory Committee. Cuba formally proposed the reclassification of the post to the D-2 level.

106. With reference to paragraph 4.17, the Secretariat should explain which of the activities described would be financed from budgetary or extrabudgetary resources and on the basis of what criteria. For example, Cuba did not understand why publication of the fact sheet mentioned in subparagraph (b) (viii) could not be financed from the regular budget. It also noted the proposal in subparagraph (b) (xv) concerning support for the Messenger of Peace and asked who was performing that role.

107. Cuba supported the activities of the regional disarmament centres and, in that connection, noted the Advisory Committee's comment in paragraph II.24 of its report that the director of the Khatmandu centre was currently operating from New York, because of the centre's persistent financial constraints. She asked what were the prospects for the centre, the structure of its staffing table and its vacancy rate. She pointed out that the narrative included a series of activities which the Secretariat could not undertake without the approval of the Member States: for example, the formulation of legal norms and the establishment of a register of conventional arms.

108. Lastly, her delegation welcomed the inclusion in paragraph 4.17 of the programme budget, concerning outputs for the biennium, of reports on disarmament and development and reports on the observance of environmental norms with respect to disarmament and arms control agreements.

109. **Mr. Yussuf** (United Republic of Tanzania) referred to paragraph 70 of document A/54/6/Rev.1, which indicated that the increase proposed for the Department for Disarmament Affairs was $522,500 (4 per cent) compared with the revised appropriations for the current biennium and specified that the increase was primarily the result of the reorganization of disarmament affairs as part of the Secretary-General's programme of reform. His delegation fully supported the Secretary-General's reforms but, since the figure was very high, would like to know how it had been reached. The Advisory Committee offered no explanation in its report. It would therefore be desirable for the Secretariat to do so.

110. **Mr. Takahara** (Japan) was concerned to note from paragraph 55 of the Advisory Committee's report that sufficient information had not been provided on costs of consultants and experts. Those costs were much higher (16.2 per cent) than for the current biennium. In addition, the Organization should make full use of its own experts before resorting to external assistance and should not use outsourcing to bypass the restrictions imposed on the number of established posts.

111. With regard to travel costs (para. 4.12), his delegation felt that not enough information was given to explain the increase in that item compared with the previous biennium. The same problem arose with respect to general staff costs (para. 4.24). The increase of $54,500 should be justified by more information.

112. His delegation valued the role played by the regional disarmament centres and particularly the Khatmandu centre. That centre had remained active, as illustrated by the convening of expert group meetings on a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia, on the basis of a resolution adopted by the General Assembly. His delegation believed that the necessary measures

should be taken to guarantee suitable working conditions for that centre.

113. **Mr. Sach** (Director, Programme Planning and Budget Division), responding to the question from the delegation of the United Republic of Tanzania about the 4 per cent increase requested for the Department for Disarmament Affairs, said that the information was provided in table 4.2 of document A/54/6/Rev.1. That table showed that the bulk of the expenditure was for staff costs. It was proposed to establish one P-3 post in the Weapons of Mass Destruction Branch and one P-2 post to perform research and monitoring and to reclassify one P-5 post to the D-1 level, also in the Weapons of Mass Destruction Branch. The second largest expenditure item had nothing to do with staff but related to the funding of fellowships (disarmament and technical cooperation). Since some delegations had expressed interest in the costs of consultants and experts, it should be pointed out that the $1.5 million requested under that item would be mainly used to finance expert groups, such as the Group of Governmental Experts on the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms and the Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa. In fact, the figure for experts and consultants as such was $29,700.

114. With respect to travel costs, it was surprising that questions had been raised, since there was a reduction of over $200,000 for that item compared with the previous biennium. In any case, detailed information could be provided.

115. Questions had also been asked about the regional disarmament centres. A few years previously, they had been on the point of being closed because of funding difficulties. The original idea had been to include in the regular budget appropriations to finance posts and to obtain extrabudgetary funds for operating costs. Since the extrabudgetary funds had not been forthcoming, it had been decided to remove the posts from the regular budget. Since Member States had not supported that decision, the posts had been kept in the budget and efforts had been intensified to collect funds. Peru had made contributions for the facilities and the operation of the centre in its region. No agreement had been signed with Nepal with regard to premises for the Khatmandu centre, which was why it continued to operate from Headquarters.

116. With regard to the reclassification of one P-5 post to the D-1 level and other proposed reclassifications, he pointed out that any reclassification involved two stages. Firstly, the post had to be reviewed from the viewpoint of its functions, tasks and responsibilities to determine whether an upgrading was appropriate. If the conclusion of that evaluation was that the relevant functions did deserve to be performed at a higher level, the process moved to the budgetary stage and it was decided whether it was desired to finance a post at that level under the regular budget. The reclassification of the P-5 post in the Weapons of Mass Destruction Branch had not yet gone through either of those stages.

Section 5. Peacekeeping operations

117. **Mr. Sareva** (Finland), speaking on behalf of the European Union, the associated countries Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia, and, in addition, Iceland and Norway, said that the European Union had long supported that priority activity of the United Nations, as well as the principle that the core functions of the Organization should be financed from the regular budget. The current division of the financing of peacekeeping activities between the regular budget and the support account raised doubts about whether that principle was fully respected. The European Union believed that the costs of the core staff of the Secretariat dealing with peacekeeping should be included in the regular budget and had taken note of the Advisory Committee's observations in that regard.

118. He emphasized the need for adequate backstopping resources for peacekeeping activities. The recent increase in the number and size of peacekeeping operations and the phase-out of gratis personnel were placing growing demands on the support account. The success of peacekeeping operations and the security of peacekeepers must not be jeopardized by scarcity of resources. The European Union took note of the statement made by the Secretary-General on 5 October, in which he had stressed the need for additional mechanisms to give the Organization the necessary hiring flexibility and surge capacity. It looked forward to further ideas on the subject. It would also like to know whether the recent creation of a single Military and Civilian Police Division had yielded the expected results. In addition,

it reiterated its strong support for the Office of Logistics, Management and Mine Action.

119. The European Union emphasized that a gender perspective should be integrated in peacekeeping operations, since women and children were disproportionately affected by armed conflicts. Due attention must be paid to the rights of children, including child soldiers. Emphasis should also be placed on the importance of a strong human rights component in peacekeeping operations.

120. **Mr. Damico** (Brazil) said that peacekeeping was one of the most challenging and complex activities of the United Nations and that peacekeeping missions were probably the most impressive feature of the Organization's work. No one could deny their relevance in the light of the tragic conflicts witnessed recently.

121. Brazil, being one of the largest contributors to peacekeeping operations among developing countries, attached great importance to the work of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and expressed support for the manner in which the Department was conducting its field operations.

122. His delegation shared the opinion of the Committee for Programme and Coordination that activities relating to the liquidation of assets, the development of safety aspects of mine clearance and the processing of claims for contingent-owned equipment should be carried out as soon as possible. In connection with the last matter, the Advisory Committee pointed out that the activities related to contingent-owned equipment were funded both from the support account and from the regular budget, and suggested that the Secretariat should ascertain whether those activities could be financed from the support account and accordingly propose that all funding for those activities should be transferred from the regular budget to that account. His delegation would appreciate comments from the Secretariat on that issue.

123. His delegation took note of the observation by the Committee for Programme and Coordination that certain permanent activities were still being funded on a temporary basis, which placed a heavy burden on the support account for peacekeeping operations. The Advisory Committee's report indicated that 287 posts would be financed from the support account and that the Secretariat was examining the possibility of redeploying six support account posts from other budget sections to the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. His delegation would welcome updated information on that question, as well as on the establishment of the Military and Civilian Police Division, which should provide the necessary military advice to the Department of Peacekeeping Operations.

124. **Mr. Hamidullah** (Bangladesh) fully supported the measures taken by the Secretary-General to accelerate the winding up of missions such as UNOSOM and pointed out that paragraph II.32 of the Advisory Committee's report referred to the backlog of claims relating to that type of mission. The backlog was causing many problems for the developing countries which had still not received the sums due to them for their troop contributions and contingent-owned equipment.

125. **Mr. Burton** (Canada) asked for clarification of the decrease shown in table 5.4 of the proposed programme budget in the resources for the Military and Civilian Police Division. With regard to trust funds, he asked whether those which appeared from table 5.4 to have no balances could not be closed. He also recalled that the database for trust funds planned in connection with subprogramme 3 had not yet been established, and urged that the database should be completed by early 2000, as had been proposed.

126. Canada also agreed with the Advisory Committee that the budget presentation should be refined so as to explain more clearly the changes in estimates. For example, information should be provided on the increase in the unit monthly cost of renting aircraft and on the overall impact of that increase on the budget. In addition, as noted in paragraph II.47 of the Advisory Committee's report, an explanation should be given for the increase of $43,000 in the item for UNMOGIP travel. Similarly, further details should be given on what was identified as miscellaneous services, amounting to $419,000, in the UNTSO budget. The same could be said with respect to the amount of $195,000 in the UNMOGIP budget for miscellaneous services.

127. His delegation noted that paragraph 5.19 of the proposed programme budget contained an amount of $112,000 for the processing of a backlog of claims concerning contingent-owned equipment, and that paragraph II.32 of the Advisory Committee's report stated that activities related to such equipment were

funded from the support account. It agreed that the funds required should come from the support account.

128. **Mr. Sial** (Pakistan) said that his country attached great importance to the role of the United Nations in the maintenance of international peace and security and that the necessary resources should be provided to enable the Organization to perform that role.

129. His delegation endorsed the recommendations and conclusions of the Committee for Programme and Coordination in paragraph 145 (a) and (b) of its report and believed that they should be incorporated in the final budget document approved by the General Assembly.

130. As noted in paragraph II.29 of the Advisory Committee's report, the redeployment of six posts to the Rapidly Deployable Mission Headquarters, approved by the General Assembly in its most recent resolution on the support account, had not yet taken place. His delegation requested the Secretary-General to take urgent measures to redeploy those six posts, so that the Headquarters could be fully functional.

131. In paragraph II.47 of its report, the Advisory Committee observed that efforts should be made to streamline the travel programme by reducing the number and duration of trips. Pakistan believed that streamlining did not necessarily mean reduction; on the contrary, it might result in an increase. In that context, he asked the Secretariat to clarify whether the proposed provisions for travel would be adequate, bearing in mind the new requirement for aircraft travelling to Srinagar to land first at New Delhi.

132. In paragraph II.48 of its report, the Advisory Committee reported that the existing Beechcraft 200C aircraft were not suitable for UNMOGIP operations, but did not recommend a remedial measure to redress the situation. He asked the Secretariat to inform the Committee about the measures it had contemplated to provide suitable aircraft for UNMOGIP operations.

133. His delegation supported the Secretary-General's proposal regarding section 5.

134. **Mr. Takahara** (Japan) said that Japan attached considerable importance to the work of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and hoped that it would adjust to the staff reduction represented by the withdrawal of the gratis personnel. Although provision was made in the section for a considerable increase in the resources for general temporary assistance, it was difficult to determine the right level for expenditure under that item without having detailed information. In paragraph 51 of its report, the Advisory Committee cautioned that general temporary assistance should not be used to compensate for reductions in established posts.

135. With regard to the backlog related to the *Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs* and the processing of requests for reimbursement connected with contingent-owned equipment, clarification was needed of the plan of work to be followed to deal with the situation and information should be given on the financial implications for subsequent bienniums.

136. With reference to recosting, Japan asked the Secretariat to provide more information on the methodology, which, as noted by the Advisory Committee in paragraph 37 of its report, was not fully transparent. The issue was one which affected all sections of the proposed programme budget and the explanation could be given in the form of a table or in some other suitable form. It was noteworthy that the total resource level proposed for the section represented hardly any increase compared with the current appropriation in real terms but involved a considerable increase after recosting.

137. Lastly, Japan reiterated the importance of protecting the safety of United Nations personnel in the field.

The meeting rose at 6.05 p.m.